

ATTACHMENT:

Committee on Human Services

Please review the provisions below that are included in the Governor's Fiscal Year 2023 proposed Budget Adjustment bill. The explanations highlighted in yellow were provided by the Department of Finance and Management. The notes in gray are from the House Appropriations Committee.

Sec. 1 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

a) In fiscal year 2023, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:

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(29) \$350,000 to the State Refugee Resettlement Office, located within the Agency of Human Services Central Office, to implement Employment Assistance Grants for New Americans created in Section E.300.2 of this Act. Funds remaining at the end of FY2025 shall revert to the General Fund.

EXPLANATION: These funds will provide financial assistance to organizations engaged in developing community-based systems of support for New Americans.

NOTE: The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Committee on Education are also reviewing this section.

(30) \$9,225,000 to the Department of Mental Health to continue construction of the Southwest Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) Youth Inpatient Facility.

EXPLANATION: Funds will be used to complete construction of the facility.

NOTE: The Committees on Corrections and Institutions and the Committee on Health Care are also reviewing this section.

(31) \$3,000,000 to the Department for Children and Families Office of Economic Opportunity for the CARES Housing Voucher Program.

EXPLANATION: Replicates the CARES Housing Voucher Program to re-house families experiencing homelessness by providing bridge funds for temporary rental assistance for families not on Reach Up. This program was previously 100% federally funded and this appropriation continues these services.

NOTE: The Committee on General and Housing is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 4 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. D.101 is amended to read:

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(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023:

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(4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2023, the following amounts shall revert to the General Fund from the accounts indicated:

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<u>3400892112 AHS-VT Food Bank-Food Box</u>	<u>\$ 1,376,000.00</u>
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NOTE: The Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry is also reviewing this reversion.

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<u>5100892214 AOA School Food Program Administration</u>	<u>\$ 50,670.70</u>
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NOTE: The Committee on Education and the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry are also reviewing this reversion.

Sec. 6 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.100 is amended to read:

(a) The establishment of the following new positions is authorized in fiscal year 2023:

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(2) Permanent Exempt Positions:

(A) Vermont Pension Investment Commission: one Principal Assistant.

(B) Office of Child, Youth and Family Advocate

(i) One Child, Youth and Family Advocate; and

(ii) One Deputy Child, Youth and Family Advocate.

EXPLANATION: Technical corrections to provide position creation language that was inadvertently omitted from Act 129 of 2022.

Sec. 10 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.300.2 is added to read:

Sec. E.300.2 Employment Supports for New Americans

(a) Employment Assistance Grants. The State Refugee Office, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Labor, shall administer a grant program to support the development of coordinated community-based systems, with consideration of regional networks and resources, to assist in achieving economic self-sufficiency for New Americans, including refugees, humanitarian parolees, special immigrant visa holders, asylees, asylum-seekers and others who are pursuing a path to citizenship.

(b) Grant funds may be allocated to:

(1) Assess the current ability of a municipality or region supporting the resettlement of New Americans, with a focus on Brattleboro, Bennington, Chittenden and Rutland, including the availability of English language services, transportation, housing, employment supports and economic and health services.

(2) Provide employment and related support services for refugees, asylum seekers and other New Americans including technical support, employment training before or during employment, English language learning, employment –

related case management, job placement, transportation or other related services.

(3) Provide staff support for the coordination of local and state resources to secure partnerships with organizations employing refugees, development of sustainable New American support systems for regions where New Americans are being settled, creation of employer partnerships to serve multiple refugees, identification of cultural barriers for individual or groups of refugees and facilitation with necessary stakeholders to remove barriers and prepare for successful employment.

EXPLANATION: Creates a grant program, to be administered by the State Refugee Office, to assist organizations engaged in developing community-based systems of support for New Americans. \$350K has been provided to support this effort in Section XX of this Act amending 2022 Act 185 to add subsection (a)(29).

NOTE: The Committee on Education and the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 12 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.314.3 is added to read:

Sec. E.314.3 REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PRIVATE NONMEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

(a) Of the amounts appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Section B.314 as amended by this act, \$420,000 is appropriated for the purposes of increasing reimbursement rates for Private Nonmedical Institutions which have rates set according to the Department of Vermont Health Access, Division of Rate Setting's Methods, Standards and Principles for Establishing Payment Rates for Private Nonmedical Institutions Providing Residential Child Care Services. This

amount shall be distributed by increasing the per diem rates set by the Department of Vermont Health Access, Division of Rate Setting for each Private Nonmedical Institution. The Division of Rate Setting shall increase the treatment portion of the final per diem rate for each Private Nonmedical Institution whose rate is set by the Division of Rate Setting by an amount sufficient to ensure the appropriation in this section is fully utilized from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

EXPLANATION: This is the associated language for the PNMI inflation factor adjustment. Amounts referenced are gross figures (GF + GC).

Sec. 13 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. E.317.1 is added to read:

Sec. E.317.1 REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PRIVATE NONMEDICAL

INSTITUTIONS

(a) Of the amounts appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Section B.317 as amended by this act, \$1.9M is appropriated for the purposes of increasing reimbursement rates for Private Nonmedical Institutions which have rates set according to the Department of Vermont Health Access, Division of Rate Setting's Methods, Standards and Principles for Establishing Payment Rates for Private Nonmedical Institutions Providing Residential Child Care Services. This amount shall be distributed by increasing the per diem rates set by the Department of Vermont Health Access, Division of Rate Setting for each Private Nonmedical Institution. The Division of Rate Setting shall increase the treatment portion of the final per diem rate for each Private Nonmedical Institution whose rate is set by the Division of Rate Setting by an amount sufficient to ensure the appropriation in this section is fully utilized from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

EXPLANATION: This is the associated language for the PNMI inflation factor adjustment. Amounts referenced are gross figures (GF + GC).

Sec. 18 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. G. 600(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) \$35,000,000 to the Department of Public Service to grant to Efficiency Vermont for the purpose of weatherization incentives to Vermonters with a moderate income. These funds shall be deposited in the Electric Efficiency Fund established under 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3) and shall be available for ~~use~~ obligation by Efficiency Vermont through December 31, 2024. Households approved for assistance in this section will also be offered services outlined in subdivision (4) of this subsection.

EXPLANATION: Provides clarification by substituting the technical term “obligation” for the general term “use” thereby avoiding misinterpretation of intent.

NOTE: The Committee on Environment and Energy is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 23 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 72 is amended to read:

Sec. 72. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCENTIVE

GRANT FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE AND
SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYERS

(a)(1) Program established. The Secretary of Human Services shall establish a workforce recruitment and retention incentive grant program for employees of eligible employers, as defined in this section. Eligible employers may apply for a grant within the grant application period determined by the Secretary.

(2) For all eligible employers except for home health agencies, ~~t~~The total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of

\$2,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application. For home health agencies, the total grant award amount for each eligible employer shall be calculated at a rate of \$3,000 per full-time equivalent employee (FTE) based on the number of FTEs identified by the eligible employer in its grant application.

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~~(4) Eligible employers shall distribute the full amount of their awards within 12 months following receipt of the grant funds.~~

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(f) Allocations. Of the funds made available in subsection (e) of this section, \$45,000,000 shall be allocated for a first round of funding, to be made available to the eligible employers identified in subsection (b) of this section. The remaining \$15,000,000 shall be reserved for a second round of funding pending identification of a set of additional health care and social service provider employers with a demonstrated need for the recruitment and retention incentive grant funding, as recommended by the Agency of Human Services and accepted by the General Assembly, or by the Joint Fiscal Committee if the General Assembly is not in session, except that the Agency is authorized to access all or a portion of the reserved funding to the extent that a funding deficiency is identified when meeting the needs of the first round of eligible employers. Any remaining funds following a second round of funding may be used for one or more of the following workforce recruitment and retention purposes:

(1) Incentive grants to nurses employed by health care employers in Vermont for serving as preceptors for nursing students enrolled in Vermont nursing schools. The Agency shall distribute all or a portion of the remaining funds to health care employers employing nurses who provide student preceptor supervision based on the number of preceptor hours to be provided, at a rate of \$5.00 per preceptor hour, or a lesser hourly rate if the need exceeds the available funds. The Agency shall prioritize funding for health care employers that provide matching funds for additional preceptor compensation or that commit to providing future compensation and support to expanding the number of preceptors.

(2) If nurse preceptors receiving compensation pursuant to a grant awarded to a health care employer under this section are subject to a collective bargaining agreement, the use of the grant funds provided to the health care employer for the nurse preceptors shall be subject to bargaining between the health care employer and the collective bargaining representative of the nurses to the extent required by the collective bargaining agreement.

(3) Grants to health care employers, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, designated and specialized service agencies, federally qualified health centers, and other health care providers, to establish or expand partnerships with Vermont nursing schools to create nursing pipeline or apprenticeship programs, or both, that will train members of the health care employers' existing staff, including personal care attendants, licensed nursing assistants, and licensed practical nurses, to become higher-level nursing professionals. Through a combination of scholarship awards, grants awarded to health care employers

pursuant to this section, grants awarded to health care employers pursuant to Act 183 of 2022 Sec. 22, and the health care employer's contributions, the trainees' tuition and fees shall be covered in full, and trainees shall be provided with assistance in meeting their living costs, such as housing and child care, while attending the program.

* * *

EXPLANATION:

- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(2) necessary to expend a portion of the remaining premium pay funds on a 50% increase in grants to home health agencies.
- Amendment to Sec.72(a)(4) necessary to avoid complexities with potential end of public health emergency and the IT platform that supports the grant program.

Amendment to Sec.72(f) necessary to maximize effectiveness of nursing programs and ensure impact beyond public health emergency. Additional programs will expand programs authorized in Act 183, Secs. 21 and 22 by adding funding and additional health care employer types to the nurse preceptor program and adding a more flexible funding source that can cover living costs for the nursing pipeline or apprenticeship program

NOTE: The Committees on Health Care, Education, and Commerce and Economic Development are also reviewing this section.

Sec. 31 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186, Sec. 4(b) is amended to read:

(b) In fiscal year 2023, \$102,000.00 is ~~appropriated~~ allocated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 72a as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Sec.105 to fund the Residential Program Developer position established in subsection (a) of this section.

EXPLANATION: Technical language clarifying that the \$102K was not a new appropriation but an allocation of funding from a previous appropriation as amended.

NOTE: The Committee on Health Care is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 32 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186, Sec. 5(b)(1) is amended to read:

(b)(1) In fiscal year 2023, \$500,000.00 is ~~appropriated~~ allocated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living from the Global Commitment Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) home- and community-based services monies appropriated in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83 Sec. 72a as amended by 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185 Sec.105 to develop housing and residential service pilot planning grants in at least three regions of the State, in partnership with designated and specialized service agencies, for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Department shall issue a request for proposals seeking entities to develop regional pilot planning grants with not more than one grant per designated agency catchment area.

EXPLANATION: Technical language clarifying that the \$500K was not a new appropriation but an allocation of funding from a previous appropriation as amended.

NOTE: The Committee on Health Care is also reviewing this section.

Sec. 33 REPEALS; MENTAL HEALTH RISK POOL

1998 Acts and Resolves No. 147, Sec. 138a is repealed effective on passage.

EXPLANATION: Language necessary for the repeal of the Mental Health Risk Pool special fund.

NOTE: The Committee on Health Care is also reviewing this section.